# CNDL Mobile Library Grant Proposal

The David and Lucile Packard Foundation

Year: 2020-2021

CNDL

*We deliver hope*

CALIFORNIA NATURAL DISASTER LIBRARY • CNDL
200 Civic Center Way, Calabasas, CA 91302 • www.cndl.org • hope@cndl.org • (818) 747-7900
CNDL – *We deliver hope*

Carol Larson
President and CEO
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
343 Second Street
Los Altos, CA 94022 USA

November 8, 2019

Dear Ms. Larson,

How proud you must be of the transformative work you have done for the Packard Foundation. During your tenure, the Foundation has greatly increased its engagement with complex problems facing California families and with challenges created by climate change.

In this spirit, we ask you to allocate $75,000 to sponsor the California Natural Disaster Library (CNDL), an innovative mobile library initiative to deliver hope to the growing number of people displaced by fires, storms and floods brought on by climate change.

Please review the attached grant proposal, which explains how CNDL would serve Californians, including whole families displaced to emergency shelters by natural disasters. With storybooks for children, practical guides and imaginative escapes for adults, and tech services such as internet hotspots and charging stations, CNDL would cover a critical gap between the basics offered by disaster responders and vital community services typically unavailable in emergency shelters.

As a pioneering organization that prides itself on creative solutions to complex problems, the Packard Foundation would make an ideal partner for CNDL, whose multifaceted, mobile program that does not fit traditional, geographically based funding profiles. CNDL also seeks significant financial support from the California State Library Foundation to help meet expected costs of $120,200.00 to launch the program and run it for one year.

Thank you for considering our request. We greatly appreciate the work you do and eagerly await your response. With the Packard Foundation's support, CNDL could get to work immediately, serving Californians in times of climate-triggered natural disaster.

For a better tomorrow,

Lucy Lapine
Founder and Director of CNDL
(818) 747-7900
hope@cndl.org
501(c)(3): TAX ID: 58-2980037

CNDL
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**Summary**

The California Natural Disaster Library (CNDL) seeks $75,000 for a one-year pilot program to deliver hope to Californians displaced by fire, flood, storms and other calamities triggered by climate change. An innovative mobile library, CNDL would travel to emergency shelters, bringing picture and chapter books for children, practical guides and comforting reads for adults, and connectivity through internet hotspots and charging stations. CNDL would bridge the gap between disaster relief agencies that address basic needs, and community libraries and other social service providers typically absent from emergency shelters.

**Organization Information**

CNDL's mission is to deliver hope to Californians displaced by natural disasters. By supplying books, mobile access and programming to emergency shelters, CNDL seeks to relieve the anxiety and trauma suffered by people evacuated from their homes.

Founded by librarian and former aid worker Lucy Lapine, CNDL is a new organization based in Calabasas, CA. Lapine decided to create CNDL in 2018 after spending five nights in a Southern California emergency shelter during the Woolsey Fire. While Red Cross provided basics such as food and blankets, no one addressed the anxiety experienced by shelter residents, including children. Lapine thought of all the services she could offer through her employer, Calabasas Library, if only the branch had not also been evacuated. Thinking back on an earlier four-year stint with Libraries Without Borders, Lapine recognized that her fellow Californians were like the traumatized populations she had served in post-earthquake Haiti and Colombia. She knew that mobile libraries could be powerful tools to reduce stress, restore normalcy and bring information and connectivity to displaced people. She began to imagine CNDL.

Without the funds to launch a full-fledged mobile library operation, Lapine returned to her job at Calabasas, devoting her free time to building a stock of donated books and a list of potential volunteers. She brought together a board, including Libraries Without Borders lead strategist Jeanne Friedman, Los Angeles Rotary Club Treasurer Darin Marinov, Calabasas Head Librarian Leonard Lo, Sacramento Emergency Services Coordinator Victor Merced and Los Angeles Public Librarian Metta Chong. CNDL acquired 501(c)3 status in March 2019. In the fire season of Fall 2019, Lapine decided to give CNDL a trial run. With her own SUV, some portable charging equipment, donated supplies, and the support of a like-minded volunteer, she used personal vacation time to visit three shelters established during Sonoma County's Kincade Fire. Working with local relief services, CNDL was warmly welcomed at the shelters, where Lapine shared disaster recovery guides, along with children's books, novels, meditation guides and even poetry. Evacuees used a phone-based system to check out 415 items, of which 343 were returned. The most popular items were picture books and disaster recovery guides. Over 150 children participated in a dozen storytimes offered over five days. More than 300 victims made use of the mobile charging stations CNDL supplied.

Based on the success of the Kincade Fire service runs, CNDL seeks funding to extend operations by acquiring a 32-foot bookmobile and a full-time director. By leaning on volunteers

and donations, including office and storage space contributed by Calabasas Public Library, CNDL can keep first-year costs to $120,000.

**Situation Description**

Natural disasters are hitting California harder than ever. Dangerously, the fire season is starting earlier and ending later every year. Climate change has affected California with higher temperatures and less snowpack, which increases the risk of wildfires. According to the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection, approximately 198,392 acres were burned, 732 structures damaged or destroyed, and 3 fatalities suffered during the 2019 fire season throughout the state. During the 2018 Camp Fire, Hill Fire and Woolsey Fire in California, American Red Cross and their partners provided 61,300 overnight shelter stays.

Once the fire season ends, mudslides and floods occur due to the rainfalls. The loss of vegetation from the fires causes these natural disasters, since the bare, drought-hardened ground cannot absorb the rain. When a storm is classified as an atmospheric river event, it can be hazardous. Last year, a few months after the deadly Santa Barbara County mudslide, an atmospheric river event affected several counties, prompting 30,000 people to evacuate. The governor declared a state of emergency to eight counties due to erosions, floods, power outages and damages caused by the storm.

These natural disasters have evicted thousands from their homes, causing people to leave behind and lose many of their possessions. Such events take an emotional and psychological toll. These traumatic experiences cause evacuees to become distressed and fearful of what's to come and what they have lost. Having social support can aid in the reduction of distress, which is what we hope to achieve with the CNDL mobile library.

Suggested readings:

https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2019/

https://www.redcross.org/about-us/our-work/disaster-relief/wildfire-relief/2018-california-wildfires-relief-information.html

https://www.kqed.org/science/1935067/rivers-in-the-sky-what-you-need-to-know-about-atmospheric-river-storms

https://www.businessinsider.com/california-natural-disasters-of-year-2018-12

https://www.brainfacts.org/diseases-and-disorders/mental-health/2018/natural-disasters-take-a-toll-on-mental-health-062818

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK316541

**Work Plan**

The goal of the CNDL mobile library project is to alleviate stress, provide comfort and support, and be a source of information to people affected by natural disasters in California. Our direct target audience are victims who take refuge in evacuation shelters, with the shelter volunteers as an indirect audience. For the pilot year, we will have 1 mobile library which will be staffed by the director and 1 part-time librarian. In the future, we hope to hire 1 paid librarian with an MLIS degree to free the director for a management role. We aim to start a one-year pilot program in January 2020 or as soon as funds become available. The CNDL director will oversee the mobile library project throughout its assignments.

CNDL will supply guides as well as pamphlets for disaster and mental health recovery. In addition, the library will offer fiction and nonfiction books for children and adults. Evacuees can use their mobile phones to check out materials which can be later returned to local libraries, who will then mail it to CNDL, postage due. CNDL will budget the loss of up to 20 percent of items annually. CNDL will offer children's storytimes as well as puppet shows. CNDL will provide charging stations powered by solar panels, as well as internet hotspots, so even during power outages, people can communicate with their loved ones.

**Outcome**

Experts agree that in times of disaster, early mental health interventions should promote 1) a sense of safety; 2) calming; 3) a sense of self- and community efficacy; 4) connectedness; and 5) hope. With its mobile book service, CNDL can achieve these goals. Against the cramped discomfort of an emergency shelter, the CNDL mobile book service offers evacuees a safe, familiar, and calming experience. In selecting materials to read or check out, visitors to CNDL experience self-efficacy and individual choice–opportunities sorely lacking amid the chaos of evacuation and the bureaucracy of disaster relief. Through storytimes and simple gatherings around the bookmobile and charging stations, CNDL promotes a sense of community. Whether visitors elect to read step-by-step guides to recovery or fiction that reminds them of better times, CNDL offers hope in a form victims can choose for themselves. As the success of our trial run to Kincade Fire shelters confirms, CNDL aims to reduce the stress of shelter stays and prepare evacuees in the transition toward recovery.

**Other Funding**

CNDL has grants from Google, The Lawrence Foundation, and The Lois Lenski Covey Foundation. CNDL’s largest supporter is Google, which has provided CNDL with $30,000. The Lawrence Foundation, which focuses on disaster relief, has granted CNDL $10,000 to support CNDL’s overall operations and vehicle maintenance costs. The Lois Lenski Covey Foundation grant provided CNDL with $3,000 to outfit the bookmobile with children's books.

**Future Funding**

CNDL will target a California State Library bookmobile grant, California Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) sponsorship and Red Cross sponsorship. The California State Library bookmobile grant, provided by the Bringing Libraries to You program, is one of our key targets because the state has earmarked $3 million to spend on bookmobile projects within the next two years. At present, CNDL leases a bookmobile with over 145,000 miles of use. Through the California State Library program, we hope to purchase a newer vehicle for $120,000 (a little over half the cost of a new bookmobile). This would allow us to reduce repair costs and travel with confidence. We are also seeking formal sponsorship with Cal OES, which has a policy of only supporting nonprofits with at least one year of experience. Already, CNDL has been working closely with Cal OES staff to coordinate services. Cal OES has signalled its interest in offering financial support of up to $5,000 per month for months during which CNDL responds to an emergency. When it comes to helping the people of California, Cal OES and CNDL are natural partners. Finally, CNDL will seek $40,000 and formal sponsorship from Red Cross. Working under the Red Cross umbrella would provide CNDL with authority when going into shelters and allow the two agencies to coordinate services in the field. Like Cal OES, Red Cross considers only nonprofits with at least one year's track record.

**Evaluation**

To measure demand for CNDL services, we will count materials checked out, devices charged and participants in programs such as storytimes. To evaluate whether we achieved our goal of relieving anxiety and stress, we will follow up through a survey. Surveys will be distributed from the mobile library and after storytime, asking visitors to assess whether CNDL services helped to reduce their anxiety and to recommend any further services they would like to see. Since books will be checked out by phone numbers, we can also follow up with library users by text some months after the shelter stay.

**Budget**

We anticipate costs of $120,000.00 to jumpstart the mobile library program. Our budget consists of three parts: personnel expenses, direct program expenses, and administrative expenses.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Personnel** | Full time director | $50,000.00 |
| | Part time librarian | $28,000.00 |
| | **TOTAL** | **$78,000.00** |
| **Direct Program Expenses** | Used Bookmobile lease | $14,000.00 |
| | Vehicle repair and maintenance | $5,000.00 |
| | Halt sites (where the bookmobile parks) | $2,000.00 |
| | Telecommunication cost | $2,000.00 |
| | Fuel cost | $5,000.00 |
| | Vehicle insurance | $1,300.00 |
| | Registration | $500.00 |
| | External power costs | $1,500.00 |
| | Postage/Return of Books | $1,500.00 |
| | Books | $4,000.00 |
| | Supplies | $1,000.00 |
| | **TOTAL** | **$37,800** |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Administrative** | Office space (desk)<br><br>Laptop, printer, office supplies<br><br>**TOTAL** | $1,200<br><br>$3,000<br><br>**$4,200** |

**CONTRIBUTED INCOME:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Google | $30,000.00 |
| Lawrence Foundation | $10,000.00 |
| Covey Foundation | $3,000.00 |
| **TOTAL** | **$43,000** |

**IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Calabasas Library (office space) | $1,200.00 |
| Various individuals (donated books) | $1,000.00 |
| **ESTIMATED AMOUNT** | **$2,200.00** |

**Supplementary Material**


# LUCY LAPINE

**11628 Abbey Road, Calabasas, CA 91372**
**(818) 535-5567**


## SUMMARY:

Passionate library director with more than nine years of experience serving the community. Strong commitment to public service and creating programs for the community during times of need.

## EXPERIENCE:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2018- 2019 | LIBRARY DIRECTOR FOR CNDL | Calabasas, CA |
| 2013- 2017 | ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, CALABASAS CITY LIBRARY | Calabasas, CA |
| 2009- 2013 | AID WORKER, LIBRARIANS WITHOUT BORDERS | Global |

## EDUCATION:

University of Illinois
PhD in Library and Information Science, 2017

University of Southern California:
Master of Management in Library and Information Science 2014

Stanford University
B.A in Public communications, Minor in public affairs 2012

## AFFILIATIONS:

ALA 2014- present
IFLA 2014- present
NATIONAL VOLUNTARY ORGANIZATION ACTIVE IN DISASTER 2012- present

## Supplementary Material

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE
P. O. BOX 2508
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Date: March 14, 2019

California
Natural Disaster
Library
200 Civic Center
Way, Calabasas,
CA 91302

Employer Identification Number:
47-2222774
DLN:
26053709001754
Contact Person:
CUSTOMER SERVICE IDN 31954
Contact Telephone Number:
(877) 829-5500
Accounting Period Ending:
December 31
Public Charity Status:
509(a)(2)
Form 990/990-EZ/990-N Required:
Yes
Effective Date of Exemption:
July 31, 2014
Contribution Deductibility:
Yes
Addendum Applies:
No

Dear Applicant:

We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522. This letter could help resolve questions on your exempt status. Please keep it for your records.

Organizations exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3) are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined you're a public charity under the IRC Section listed at the top of this letter.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that you're required to file Form 990/990-EZ/990-N, our records show you're required to file an annual information return (Form 990 or Form 990-EZ) or electronic notice (Form 990-N, the e-Postcard). If you don't file a required return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.

For important information about your responsibilities as a tax-exempt organization, go to www.irs.gov/charities. Enter "4221-PC" in the search bar to view Publication 4221-PC, Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities, which describes your recordkeeping, reporting, and disclosure requirements.

Letter 5436

**Supplementary Material**

**Board of Directors** 2019-2020

**President, Lucy Lapine, Founder of CNDL**
The visionary who created CNDL, Lucy draws on 8 years of experience as a Calabasas city librarian and four years of international fieldwork with Libraries Without Borders.

**Vice President, Jeanne Friedman**
Jeanne brings 9 years of experience combining library services with disaster relief through her work as chief strategist for Libraries Without Borders.

**Treasurer, Darin Marinov**
With 22 years of volunteer board experience, Darin also acts as treasurer of Los Angeles Rotary, the nation's fifth-oldest Rotary Club. Darin works as CFO of the Alhambra Unified School District.

**Secretary, Leonard Lo**
With 18 years of experience as a public librarian in Southern California, Leonard offers programming insight and critical support for CNDL in its Calabasas homebase. Leonard also serves on the board of the Calabasas United Way.

**Member at Large, Victor Merced**
An emergency services coordinator for the Sacramento region of the California Office of Emergency Services, Victor brings 11 years of experience in emergency response.

**Member at Large, Metta Chong**
A librarian for the Los Angeles Public Library's Main branch, Metta offers 5 years of experience combining librarianship with social services. She previously managed the DISASTER-OUTREACH-LIB listserv for the National Institutes of Health.